Statement-ll

Proposed physical targets for States for village electrification during 2002-03

State	Target for 2002-03
Arunachal Pradesh	131
Assam	1067
Himachal Pradesh	22
Manipur	3
Meghalaya	89
Nagaland	1
Uttaranchal	638
Sub-total	1951
OTHER STATES	
Bihar (including Jharkhand)	3512
Chhattisgarh	329
Madhya Pradesh	44
Orissa	1673
Uttar Pradesh	3274
West Bengal	1545
Sub-Total	10377
Sub-Total of Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	500
TOTAL (All India)	12828

Restarting Dabhol Phase-I Plant

191. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "GE doubts Government's hasty recast plan for Dabhol Power Project/' in "The Indian Express" of 24th September, 2002, in which doubts have been expressed about restarting the Dabhol Phase-I plant within 2-3 months and the ability of NTPC, involved in the recast exercise to provide the required service, spares and replacements for the turbines of the project;

(b) whether commercial arrangements are underway with MSEB, indigenous and overseas financial companies to identify new potential operators to assess damages and restart the project; and

(c) if so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes Sir. The said news-item has been seen. In a letter dated 13th September, 2002, the President and

Chief Executive Officer, M/s GE India, Mr. Scott R. Bayman, conveyed that in their opinion, restarting Phase-I (740 MW) of the Dabhol Power Project within 2 to 3 months, is not possible.Their assessment was based on the fact that the power plant (Phase-I) has been shut down after the Maharashtra State Electricity Board stopped (MSEB) taking power from 29.5.2001 onwards, and that there was a possibility of rust, corrosion and other damage to the numerous operating systems, GE conveyed that according to their estimates, restart of Phase-I would take 9-15 months from the time the technical team begins its assessment of damage. It was mentioned by GE that six of the turbines of the Dabhol plant are GE designed 9 Fas and that no other company possess either the proprietary technology or the proprietary designs for spare parts. GE conveyed that along with the other equity holder in the Dabhol power project, M/s Bechtel, they would like to be part of the solutions for the power plant.

Subsequently, the Company has clarified their position with reference to the captioned news-item stating that they have not questioned the experience and ability of the NationalThermal Power Corporation (NTPC) to restart the Project. It was clarified that the point made in their letter dated 13th September, 2002 was that GE, as equipment supplier, would be required to support whichever company is selected to restart and operate the Dabhol Power Plant.

Meanwhile, as a first step, it has been agreed that an interim revival package for restarting Phase-I be worked out by the concerned agencies. NTPC has agreed to act as Operation & Maintenance contractor for running Phase-I. The agencies concerned *i.e.* MSEB, General Electric, Bechtel, Industrial Development Bank of India, NTPC and the Central Electricity Authority as the representatives of Ministry of Power, have conducted inspection of the plant and are presently engaged in discussions for finalizing the legal, commercial and technical issues for restart of Phase-I. Government of Maharashtra has conveyed that MSEB would recommence off-take of entire power from the existing Phase-I power station, with certain conditions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Village electrification in Rajasthan

192. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages per district proposed to be electrified during the current year in the State of Rajasthan;